



**Wreake Valley Academy**

## **Day Length Consultation**

The consultation ran from Thursday 13th February to Thursday 6th March 2025.

## The Consultation

Consultation to change the length of the school day. We consulted on proposed changes to the structure of the school day. The proposed changes will affect Wreake Valley Academy and Bradgate Sixth Form. Bradgate Inclusion Centre will not be affected.

## Timings

The consultation ran from Thursday 13th February to Thursday 6th March 2025.

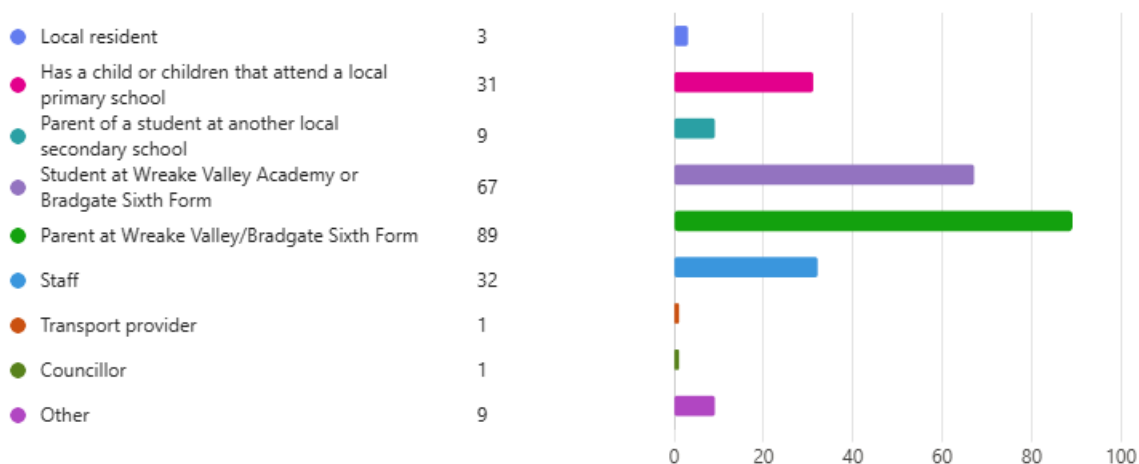
The current school day runs from 8.45am – 3.00pm. We consulted on the following proposed changes:

- To increase the length of the school day by 15 minutes.

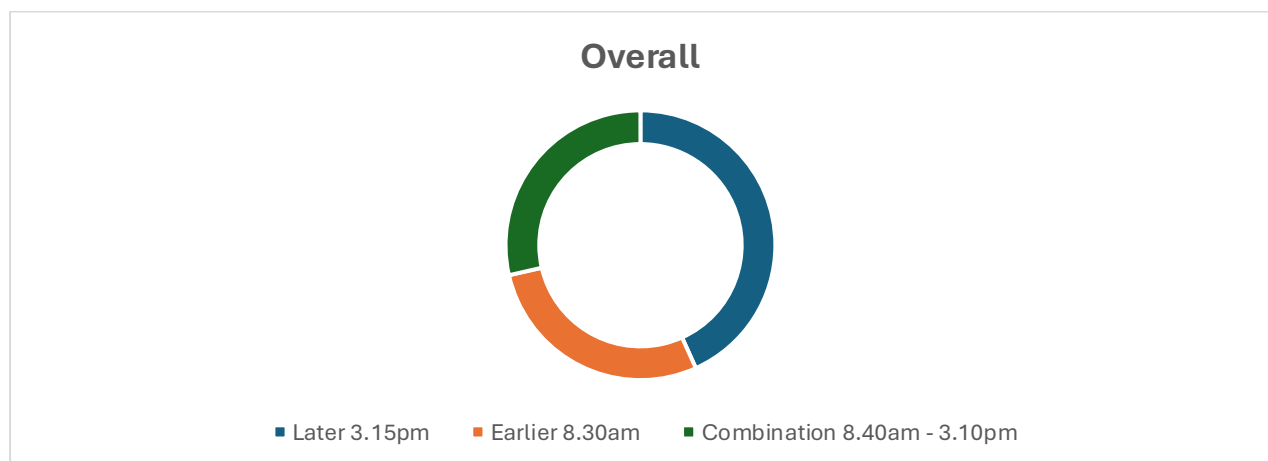
There are 3 proposed options:

- a) start the day 15 minutes earlier - 8.30am – 3.00pm
- b) finish the day 15 minutes later - 8.45am – 3.15pm
- c) a combination of the two - 8.40am – 3.10pm

## There were 245 respondents

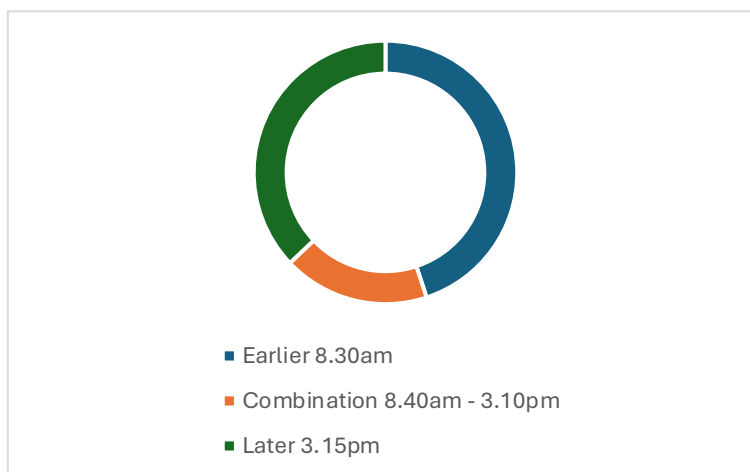


## Overall



## Parents

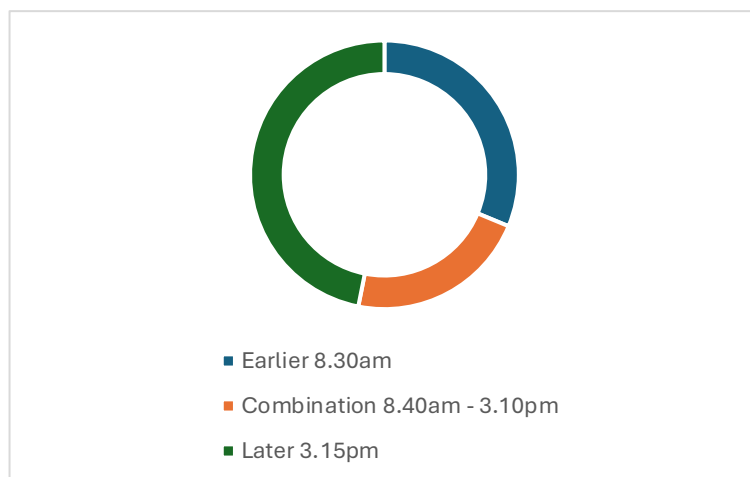
Parents have varied opinions on adjusting school start and finish times. Some prefer a later start to align with research on teenagers' alertness, while others emphasize the benefits of an earlier start and finish. Concerns include coordination of drop-offs and pickups for multiple children, impact on after-school activities, traffic, and congestion. Parents also highlight safety concerns related to dark winter months and suggest procedures to quickly settle students in class. Some parents express disappointment about not being consulted on changes to lesson formats.



## Staff

### Early Start vs. Personal Commitments

- Starting earlier would reduce time in the morning for staff to organize their children.
- Staff with childcare responsibilities would face added pressure with an earlier start.
- Coordinated timings with nearby schools allow staff and children to pick up siblings efficiently.



### Impact on Punctuality

- Concerns that starting at 8:30 would increase student tardiness.
- Preference for a later finish to improve punctuality.
- Belief that a later finish might reduce after-school activity participation.

### Other Considerations

- Flexibility needed for co-parenting and nursery pick-up.
- Potential impact on public transport schedules for students.

### Suggestions

- Wait for updated guidance before making firm decisions.
- Consider using extra time creatively, such as for RE and PSHE, or extending breaks and lunches.

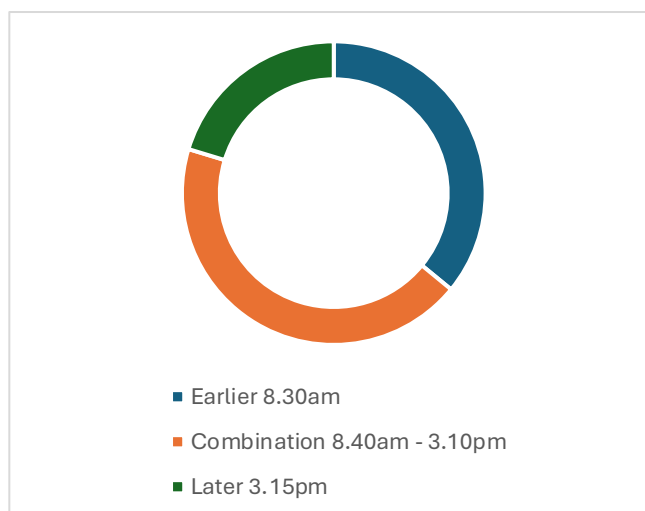
## Students

### Morning Traffic and Early Start

- Morning traffic is worse than in the afternoon.
- Hard to get children out of bed early.
- An earlier start would reduce children's concentration and impact after-school activities.

### Impact on Family Logistics

- Having children in different schools makes logistics difficult.
- Preference for extending the end of the day instead of starting earlier.
- Concern about getting children to school on time with an earlier start.
- Preference for no change in start time but a finish time of 3:15, similar to primary school.



### Impact on Students and Hobbies

- Later finish preferred to avoid early wake-up times.
- Need for a 3:00 pm finish to manage sibling pick-ups.
- Impact of earlier start on students using contracted bus services.

### Overall Preferences and Concerns

- Starting 15 minutes earlier may cause lateness issues.
- Potential negative impact on students' sleep due to early wake-up times.
- Mixed feelings about the proposed changes, with some preferring minimal impact on current arrangements.

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## Councillor

The parent of two children in Wreake Valley believes that changing the school start time would disrupt established routines and work schedules for parents. They suggest that extending the school day by 15 minutes would have a minimal impact. As a local elected Charnwood Borough Councillor, they have no objections to the three proposed options, as they don't foresee significant effects on traffic or local residents.

Favoured a later finish.

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## Local primary school parents

Parents provide a range of feedback regarding school start and finish times. Some highlight research that shows teenagers struggle with early mornings and suggest extending the school day to finish later. Others

mention the practical challenges of coordinating pickups for multiple children attending different schools, with some favouring earlier start times to allow for smoother transitions. There are also concerns about the impact of later finish times on students waiting for transport home and the potential benefits for working parents starting work at 9 am. Finally, some parents note the challenges of adjusting work schedules around school hours and the need for a gradual adjustment period for earlier starts.

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### **Local residents**

All favoured a later finish

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### **Other**

They express mixed views on adjusting school start and finish times, with concerns about the impact on traffic, congestion, and coordination of pickups for multiple children attending different schools. Safety concerns regarding traffic and student safety are also highlighted, with suggestions for staggered start and finish times to alleviate these issues.

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### **Transport company**

Favoured later finish

## **Overall**

### **Councillor**

- Prefers extending the school day by 15 minutes to minimise impact.
- No objections to the proposed options, anticipating minimal effects on traffic or local residents.

### **Local Primary School Parents**

- Mixed feedback on start and finish times.
- Some prefer extending the day to suit teenagers' sleep patterns.
- Concerns about coordinating pickups for multiple children.
- Emphasis on maintaining routines during transitions between schools.

### **Local Residents**

- Favor a later finish to the school day.

### **Other Parents**

- Concerns about traffic, congestion, and coordinating pickups.
- Mixed views on changing school hours and lesson formats.
- Emphasis on student safety and staggered start/finish times.

### **Parents**

- Varied opinions on start and finish times.
- Some prefer a later start for teenagers' alertness, others prefer an earlier finish.
- Concerns about drop-offs, after-school activities, traffic, and lesson durations.
- Safety concerns during winter months.

### **Staff**

- Concerns about earlier start reducing morning time for organizing children.
- Preference for a later finish to improve punctuality.
- Need flexibility for co-parenting and nursery pick-up.
- Suggestions to wait for updated guidance and use extra time creatively.

### **Transport company**

- Favoured later finish

## Conclusion

Taking into account the feedback from various stakeholders, as well as considering what is in the best interests of the school and the students, the decision has been made for **proposal C to be implemented from the new academic year.**

***This means that :***

- The school day will be 8.40am – 3.10pm.
- This allows for an extra 15 mins to be added to the School day as per government guidance
- There will be 20 mins Registration time
- The structure of the day will be in a format of 2 lessons – 1 lesson – 2 lessons. This has been agreed as opposed to 2 lessons – 2 lessons – 1 lesson, as this would have meant students would have a very late lunch (1:30pm start). The chosen format of the day is shown below:

The new timings of the school day will take effect from August 2025.

## School day – 2025/2026

|         |              |         |
|---------|--------------|---------|
| 8:40am  | Registration | 9:00am  |
| 9:00am  | Period 1     | 10:00am |
| 10:00am | Period 2     | 11:05am |
| 11:05am | Break        | 11:25am |
| 11:25am | Period 3     | 12:25am |
| 12:25am | Lunch        | 1:05pm  |
| 1:05pm  | Period 4     | 2:05pm  |
| 2:05pm  | Period 5     | 3:10pm  |